WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Unsold Stocks of KVIC

439. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that KVIC continued to incur huge losses due to unsold stocks and lack of credit policies;

(b) whether unsold sotck increased from 30.96 crore in 1994-95 to 49.02 crore by the end of March, 2000;

(c) whether KVIC was not able to furnish age/item-wise break-up of closing stocks; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefore and the action proposed to be taken against the officers of KVIC for this mess?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The closing stock has increased from Rs.30.96 crores in 1994-95 to Rs. 44.22 crores by the end of March, 2000.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The KVIC had not been maintaining details of age-wise/item-wise stocks of Khadi Bhavans. However, category-wise details are maintained. The KVIC has been asked to improve inventory management.

Misuse of Funds by KVIC

440. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that KVIC habitual in misusing Government funds;

(b) whether administrative expenditure exceeded the sanctioned amount by 118 per cent;

(c) whether KVIC diverted Rs. 135.21 crore from Plan to Non-Plan funds without Government's prior approval; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA):) No, Sir.

(b) Yes Sir. The administrative expenditure of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) exceeded the actual allocation by Government to the extent of 118% under this head during the period 1995-96 to 1999-2000.

(c) No, Sir. KVIC has not diverted Rs. 135.21 crores from Plan to Non-Plan head.

(d) Does not arise.

Mining Rights Along Coastal Area of Kerala

441. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government have received any applications from private companies through the State Government of Kerala seeking approval for getting lease for mining right to mine the mineral resources along the coastal area of Kerala;

(b) if so, the number of such applications and the details of such private companies;

(c) whether Government have taken any decision on the applications;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the action proposed to be taken on the same; and

(e) Government's reaction to lease out the coastal area having immense mineral wealth of strategic importance to private companies for mining operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. An application from M/s. Cochin Minerals and rutiles Ltd. (CMRL) for grant of mining lease for 9 areas admeasuring 40.05 hects. in Alappuzha Dist., Kerala has been received through the Government of Kerala and is being processed in accordance with the prescribed procedure.

(e) In tune with the general policy of decontrol and liberlisation the Government of India *vide* Resolution of 6th October 1998 has noitified a modified policy on exploitation of beach sand minerals, according to which wholly owned Indian companies are allowed to engage in mining and mineral separation activities after obtaining requisite mining lease from the State Government concerned and a licence from the Department of Atomic Energy. Similarly Joint Venture Companies (including with foreign direct investment